

FRANCIS MARION VIEW

Alum credits FMU with success of career

It was the Cadillac and Lincoln Town cars parked in the rear of an office building in a residential area that caught FMU Alum Dewey Powers' attention when he returned to Florence in 1983. The sign on that building read, "State Farm."

After arranging a meeting and talking with a State Farm representative, Powers went to work for an agent in Florence and one year later opened his own office.

"The good jobs are the ones that aren't always advertised, so people have to take the initiative to approach companies for the job they want," Powers said. "When I saw those cars, I knew somebody in that office was making a lot of money. I told the district manager I met with that I wanted an opportunity to show him I could do it too."

When Powers graduated from FMU in 1972 with a degree in business, he became a buyer for a textile company. When the textile industry began to decline, Powers found a job in textiles in Pittsburg for two years. At the end of those two



Powers

years, there was very little work to be found in the textile industry, so Powers decided he needed a change of pace.

He moved back to South Carolina, became a State Farm agent and has remained in Florence ever since. Currently located on Irby Street, Powers is in the process of building an office complex for his agency and other companies on Second Loop Road.

Powers, who worked during college to pay for his education, gives credit for his professional success to his alma mater.

He recalls the finance and business courses taught by FMU Professors Morgan Coker and Don Kelley, respectively.

"Through these courses, I gained an

"If it had not been for Francis Marion being a local college offering outstanding educational opportunities, it would have taken me a lot longer to begin my career."

Dewey Powers
State Farm agent

understanding of business and marketing," Powers said. "In these classrooms is where I began to take a special interest in business."

Powers has two sons who also have the bug

for business. His son, Brandon, is a graduate of the College of Charleston and is helping his father operate his State Farm business. His youngest son, Chandler, holds a business degree from the College of Charleston and opened a restaurant in Charleston on Aug. 15.

For the full story...

on any of the articles that appear in the Francis Marion View newsletter go to www.fmarion.edu/news.

Brayboy leads Obama campaign

By Cathy Gilbert

Reprinted with permission of Clarendon Today managing editor Cathy Gilbert.

When a lack of aptitude for physics and chemistry squashed Stacey Brayboy's dreams of being the first black female astronaut, she quickly

regrouped and turned to her second love: government and politics.

There was no doubt that this would be a woman with whom to be reckoned, because all this took place in her high school years. A 1990 graduate of Manning High School,

and alum of 1994, Brayboy today serves as S.C. campaign director in Sen. Barack Obama's 2008 race for the White House.

She's come a long way since serving as president of the MHS student government, but

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FMU alum *Continued from front*

even today is utilizing skills learned in her formative years. She studied political science at Francis Marion University where she also was elected as vice president



Stacey Brayboy, a native of Manning and a Manning High School graduate, with presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama. Brayboy hopes to bring the senator to Clarendon County in the near future.

of the student government. She then went on to receive a Master's of Public Administration at Clark Atlanta University, all setting the stage for what is currently a career working for a man who could be the next President of the United States.

Her job as the number one woman on Obama's South Carolina battleground is fast-paced and hectic, but it is obvious that Brayboy loves what she is doing. "It is truly like being a general managing many battles, all to win the war," she said in a recent telephone interview. "I sometimes think of it as being the master controller at a train yard, where dozens of trains are coming into the station, and it is my job to make sure everyone gets where they need to be without crashing into all the others."

Brayboy has frequent contact with Obama. "When the Senator comes into the state, we update him on what is going on here locally, where we are gaining ground, where we are losing ground. We keep him informed on what policies are of most concern to the voters," she explained.

When asked about Obama's potential in a state that is

predominantly Republican, Brayboy's passion really shined. "We have a lot of strong Democratic candidates and I have no doubt that Obama is one of them," she said. "I believe he brings sound leadership and judgment to the table. He truly believes in bettering small town America."

Brayboy has a long and rich run up to her current position as Obama's state director. She served as an intern to Congressman Robin Tallon, who was James Clyburn's predecessor in Washington. She also worked for Congressman Clyburn and for Senator Fritz Hollings on the Hill. "I saw government as a way to open doors to the people back home," Brayboy said.

Brayboy, who is currently single, makes her home in Columbia, but tries to make time to come home to Manning as often as possible. "I still have family here and I try to get back home as often as possible. It is a place that is home to me," she said.

Brayboy doesn't discuss a future that could include working for the President of the United States. "I don't know what the future holds, but right now I am totally focused on winning this war in S.C.," she said.

"Manning still has that Mayberry feel, but I like that there is so much growth. Home grounds me, it brings me back to who I am."

Stacey Brayboy
Campaign Director

Obama is the author of "The Audacity of Hope," a book that discusses his views on faith and values and offers a vision of the future that involves repairing a "political process that is broken" and restoring a government that has fallen out of touch with the people. It is a vision with which Brayboy says she can identify.

"When Sen. Obama speaks about his message, the audacity to hope, coming from Manning, I always hoped I would be able to make a difference. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to get involved in the whole process."



United Nations Symposium

coming to FMU

Wednesday, Oct. 24, through Friday, Oct. 26

The UN: Past, Present and Future

Presentations by Ambassadors

John R. Bolton

and

Andrew Young

Join these exciting speakers for panel discussions on world events.

The View is a quarterly publication by the Office of Public Affairs and the Office of Community Relations and Alumni Affairs at Francis Marion University for alumni, friends, and the university community. Submissions and suggestions are welcome. Contact:

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Francis Marion University offers equal opportunity in its employment, admissions, and educational activities.

FMU Foundation Board seats three new board members

Frederick Schipman Johnston of Florence, Christie Price Lucas of Murrells Inlet and Eugene LeRoy Nettles Jr. of Lake City, have been elected to the Francis Marion University Foundation Board.

Each began their initial three-year term July 1. Board members may be elected to subsequent terms.

"These are excellent people who are also strong leaders in the community," said Tim Norwood, chairman of the FMU Foundation board. "All three have highly successful business careers and have received well-deserved recognition for their support of numerous philanthropies. We look forward to benefiting from their considerable expertise."

Johnston is president and chief executive officer of Crown Beverages Inc. He is a member of the NBSC board and a legislative appointed PDRTA board member. He is also a member of the Florence Rotary Club, the National Beverage Association, the South Carolina Beverage Association and



Johnston



Lucas



Nettles

AICPA.

Lucas is senior relationship manager at Wachovia Bank. She is a volunteer for The School Foundation and an active member of the Florence Lions Club, Florence Junior League and Phi Beta Kappa.

Nettles is president and chief executive officer for Pee Dee

Electric Cooperative Inc. In addition, Nettles is a commercial pilot, vice president and chief executive officer of A. Meredith Inc., and managing partner of Sortwell Properties and LowAir LLC. He is a member of Lake City Rotary Club, the advisory board for Carolina First Bank, the Florence Regional Airport Authority and Phi Beta Kappa.

"We are excited to welcome Schipp, Christie and Toy to the FMU Foundation Board," said Jay Dowd, executive director of the FMU Foundation. "Each of them brings with them unique experiences, knowledge and talents, and we look forward to their contributions to the board."

Scholarship increased

The \$30,000 Kirby Scholarship established in 2005 at Francis Marion University by John Kirby, superintendent of Dillon School District Three in Latta, has been increased to \$50,000.

Kirby and his wife, Vicki, each received a B.S. degree from FMU in 1972. Each also went on to receive M.Ed. degrees from Francis Marion – John in 1979 and Vicki in 1982. Their son, Michael, is also an FMU graduate.

"My entire family has a real connection to Francis Marion," Kirby said. "With the rising cost of tuition, books and gas, we saw an opportunity to give something back to the university and to students who are also pursuing education as a profession."

The scholarship was permanently endowed initially in the amount of \$30,000 and will now be increased by \$20,000. This is not the only donation made to FMU by Kirby. In fact, the Kirby Scholarship replaces the John and Vicki Kirby Teacher Scholarship, which was founded in 1998 and provided two annual \$500 awards.

"I am so proud of my friends, John and Vicki Kirby," said FMU President Fred Carter. "Not only have they devoted their own careers to teaching, but they have given very generously of their resources so that others have the opportunity to enter the education profession."

Swamp Fox Club Live Auction

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 6 pm

Ervin Dining Hall

Kick-Off to Basketball Season

Call 843-661-1240 for information

FMU Foundation receives piano

Through a generous gift-in-kind donation of a Steinway grand piano, Linda Anderson Bruton of Hendersonville, N.C., has brought more music to Francis Marion University.

The piano was donated to the FMU Foundation and will be placed in Chapman Auditorium.

The Timmonsville native said she donated the walnut finish piano, originally purchased in 1952, because she just wanted to give back to the Pee Dee area.

"I attended the public schools there (Pee Dee) and am a supporter of public colleges," Bruton said. "I thought because Francis Marion is a young school, they would really appreciate the piano and use it."

Bruton graduated from St. John's High School in Darlington before earning a bachelor's from Winthrop University and a master's from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

"This is truly a donation that I am certain our students, faculty and the community will enjoy through the concerts and programs that will be performed on this piano," said Benjamin Woods, professor of music. "They will especially benefit from the access and learning that such a great piano affords."

New friends, lasting memories and everything in between



From the moment an FMU student sets foot on campus, until they march into the gym for commencement, Francis Marion University has lived in their hearts. There is much to celebrate about being a part of FMU, past, present, and future.

The FMU Fund helps your alma mater establish scholarships for deserving students, enrich the library collection, enhance physical facilities, and impact many other aspects of campus life. There are many opportunities for you to make a difference in the lives of current and future FMU students. Please join this important undertaking by contributing to the 2007-08 FMU Fund. You may also give online at www.fmarion.edu/alumni

An FMU student will call you soon to ask for your support. Please invest in the future.

Questions? Contact Brandie Love, Director of Annual Giving at 843-661-1218.

Faculty & Staff **NEWS** ♦

Roberts new child care director

Frances B. Roberts of Bishopville was appointed child care director for the Gail and Terry Richardson Center for the Child at FMU, effective July 1.

Roberts has been coordinator in Florence School District One for Even Start, a Child Development Education Pilot Program, for the past two years. There she developed and implemented family literacy programs that enable preschool children to enter school ready to succeed.

"I think this (the Gail and Terry Richardson Center for the Child) is probably one of the most exciting things I've had an opportunity to work with," Roberts said.

Roberts is responsible for heading the center that will serve 100 preschool children ages infant to five years. The center will also be a training facility for FMU students in early childhood education, psychology, and nursing and a site for research and community services.



Roberts

Cooper named VP for public and community affairs

Libby Cooper was promoted to the new position of vice president for public and community affairs at FMU.

The promotion combines her existing position as director of community relations with the director's position in communications services. She assumes many of the responsibilities of Garry Ballard, executive director of communications services, who retired on May 31. Cooper will continue to manage the community relations office that includes alumni affairs and major events.

FMU President Fred Carter said, "I've worked with Libby Cooper for eight years. She is a true professional, one in whom I have enormous trust and confidence. This new position is a logical progression of her existing responsibilities."

A Mayesville native, she and her husband Steve reside in Florence.



Cooper

Sims named director of Performing Arts Center

Laura Sims, of Knoxville, Tenn., assumed the position of managing director for the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center.

"Laura Sims brings a wealth of experience at managing academically-based theatres," Carter said. "She's a welcome addition to this campus and this community."

Sims has more than a decade of experience in theatre management, with the past seven of those years as the production manager at the Clarence Brown Theatre in Knoxville, Tenn. There she was responsible for developing and overseeing budgets for six productions per season and three performance spaces that have an annual budget of \$3 million and a \$14 million endowment fund. She was the production stage manager for The Self Family Arts Center in Hilton Head for three years prior to her work at the Clarence Brown Theatre.

As managing director for the FMU Performing Arts Center, Sims provides advice for the construction of the facility and manages and provides financial oversight, including budget development and administration.

In addition, she is collaborating with FMU arts faculty and with various community arts groups to facilitate the needs of FMU arts programs and the needs of the City of Florence and the surrounding region.



Sims

Retirees recognized for years of service

Eight employees who are retiring from FMU were recognized: Garry L. Ballard of Mooresville, N.C., executive director of communications services, nine years; Jonathan E. Baltzell of Florence, director of academic computing services, 25 years; Susan J. Currier of Marion, accountant for cashiering services, six years; Cathleen B. DeLung of Florence, student services counselor for the registrar's office, 28 years; Mary L. Greene of Darlington, administrative assistant for the counseling and testing center, 20 years; C. Steve Harper of Marion, master craftsman, 28 years; Patricia T. Pigatt of Florence, circulation manager at the library, 30 years; and Virginia B. Ridgill of Darlington, administrative associate for the psychology and sociology departments, 32 years.

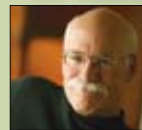
Pee Dee Fiction & Poetry Festival

Francis Marion University • November 8-10, 2007

Visiting Authors



Sharyn McCrumb



Tobias Wolff



Naomi Shihab Nye



Terrance Hayes

Johnson, King named FMU's 2007 Outstanding Employees

Kathy Johnson and Dorothy King, both of Florence, have been named outstanding staff employees of the year at Francis Marion University.

The awards were presented July 25 during the staff awards luncheon, which also honored FMU employees for length of state service.

Johnson is a senior administrative associate for community relations and King is a chief cook in the dining services department. Both Johnson and King have been employed at FMU for 22 years and both were cited for their dedication to their jobs and for service above and beyond the call of duty. FMU President Fred Carter presented Johnson and King with plaques and \$1,000 checks in recognition of winning this annual award for FMU employees. Rep. Kris Crawford was the guest speaker.

Carolyn Mumford of Quinby, senior administrative associate for the physical plant; Wyman A. Owens of Marion, superintendent of building maintenance in the warehouse; and Linda Sullen of Florence, accountant in the payroll department, were cited for 30 years of state service.

Employees honored for 20 years of service include: William



Johnson



King

D. Bessenger of Florence, craftsman; Archie T. Brown of Latta, police sergeant; Julie J. Bush of Florence, associate provost for enrollment management; Kimberly G. Davis of Marion, assistant director of institutional research and human resource assistant; Mary L. Greene of Darlington, administrative assistant for the counseling and testing center; Pearlie C. McCall of Darlington, materials services assistant of the warehouse; and Wayne V. Platt of Dillon, lead custodian supervisor of projects.

Employees recognized for 10 years of service were: Kim M. Ellisor of Florence, director of financial assistance; Christine S. Hyman of Florence, administrative assistant at the media center; Frederic D. Kunz of Florence, superintendent of grounds maintenance; Rebecca L. Lawson of Camden, director of the counseling and testing center; Jerome Pate, Jr. of Florence, supervisor of custodial services; Hannah D. Platt of Dillon, custodian; J. Lynn Timmons of Effingham, administrative associate for financial services; and Robert E. Windham of Florence, custodian.

FMU's Murugaboopathy earns Arthur Ashe Jr. Award

Francis Marion University senior women's tennis player Kamini Murugaboopathy was recently awarded the Mid-Atlantic Region's Intercollegiate Tennis Association/Arthur Ashe Jr. Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship.

The ITA/Arthur Ashe Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship Award is annually awarded to a player who has exhibited outstanding sportsmanship and leadership as well as scholastic, extracurricular and tennis achievements.

A native of Chennai, India, she was named FMU's most valuable player for three of her four seasons. She recently earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in marketing, and plans to remain at FMU to begin work on an M.B.A. degree.



Murugaboopathy

FMU student-athletes earn NCAA scholarships

Three Francis Marion University student-athletes were recently awarded NCAA Division II Degree-Completion Scholarship Awards for the 2007-08 academic year: cross country runner Megan Coy, softball player Jessica Johnson, and volleyball player Jessica Strader.

The three are among 89 recipients nationwide. These student-athletes are just short of completing their degrees but whose athletics eligibility has expired. Applicants must be within 30 semester hours of completing their undergraduate degree, and have a 2.50 cumulative grade-point average.

Coy, a native of Avon Lake, Ohio, is majoring in English (professional writing). Johnson is from Palm City, Fla., and is majoring in elementary education. Strader, a native of Kettering, Ohio, is also an elementary education major.

"We feel fortunate that three of our student-athletes are able to benefit from this program," said FMU Director of Athletics Murray Hartzler.

Former FMU coach, Tim Watson, dead at 71

Former Francis Marion University Men's Basketball and Golf Coach Tim Watson died on July 5 in a Florence hospital after an illness. He was buried July 8 in Woodside Cemetery.

Theodore Martine "Tim" Watson Jr., 71, was born in Spartanburg. He played basketball and baseball at Furman University, served as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army, and then earned undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of South Carolina.

Watson coached for three seasons at Francis Marion from 1973 to 1976. He guided the Patriot basketball team to a 21-53

combined record, including the program's first-ever double-figure win total in 1974-75, a 10-13 mark.

On the golf course, the Patriots were 44-10 and captured the NAIA District Six team championships in 1974 and 1976. Those squads went on to finish seventh and fourth, respectively at the NAIA national tournament. He was named the District Six "Coach of the Year" all three seasons.



Watson

Patriot Women add two coaches

The FMU athletic department has announced the addition of John Basaldu as an assistant coach for women's basketball and Kristi Eyler as an assistant coach for women's soccer.

Basaldu comes to FMU after two seasons as an assistant at Louisburg College in N.C. His primary responsibilities will include recruiting, on-floor coaching, individual player workouts, pre- and post-season workouts, and helping in the area of academic support for team members.

A 2003 graduate of Michigan State University, he has over nine years of basketball coaching experience. He also served as a video coordinator for the WNBA's Detroit Shock during its championship season in 2003.

Eyler returns to FMU where she was a member of the Patriot soccer team from 2001 to 2004. She most recently served as a sports marketing intern at Embry-Riddle University, where she helped organize the 2006 NAIA men's soccer national championship tournament.

Her primary responsibilities at FMU will include recruiting, on-field coaching, individual player workouts, pre- and post-season workouts, and helping in the area of academic support

for team members.

During her playing career, she earned All-Peach Belt Conference honors and second-team NSCAA All-Southeast Region recognition in 2004.

She served as a Patriot team captain in 2003 and 2004 and was selected to the PBC Presidential Honor Roll all four years. FMU compiled a 51-22-3 record with Eyler on the field, including winning the 2004 PBC regular-season crown and the PBC Tournament in 2001. In 68 career matches, the Abingdon, Md., native tallied 11 goals and 13 assists.

Upon completion of her playing career, she coached at The Brynes School, helping guide the Trojans to the 2005 state championship. After earning her degree in 2005, she worked at the Summit Sports Training Center in West Chester, Pa.



Basaldu



Eyler

1975

Susan Dusenbury has been an active member of Experimental Aircraft Association since the early 1970's. Dusenbury serves on EAA Antique Classic Chapter 3's board of directors, the Air Safety Foundation's Board of Visitors, and on the Aviation Board of Advisors for Guilford Technical Community College. She is a DC-9 captain for Airborne Express.

1977

Richard Harrington was presented with the Ashby P. Lowrimore Community Service Award which is given each year to United Way supporters who demonstrate outstanding community involvement.

1983

Irby "Bud" Weatherly and **Jennifer Smith McDaniel '92** were married on July 8, 2005.

1986

Malesa Hudson announces the release of her solo Christian Country CD entitled "Not Me."

Mark Vinson recently received the South Carolina Association of CPAs Public Service Award.

1989

Wendy and **Jody Dew** and big brother **Blake** welcome twin boys born Mar. 27, 2007. John Ryan was 6 lb 1.2 oz and Nicholas Reid was 5 lb 7.4 oz.

1991

Audra Hayes Thames and **Chuck Thames** announce the birth of their son, **Patrick Ryan** on Dec. 10, 2005.

1992

Sylvia Jefferies completed work on four films and five commercials in 2002, including EPT (Early Pregnancy Test), Walgreens, and BC Powder; "Leopold Bloom", "The Bleeder", and "Carma." She is filming "The Notebook" in SC., in which she plays Rosemary, one of the bridesmaids.

Jennifer Smith McDaniel and **Irby "Bud" Weatherly '83** married on July 8, 2005.

1993

After earning a master's in marketing at Francis Marion University, **Mark Butler** worked at a specialty shop in Florence. After the shop closed, at the age of 23, Butler decided to open his own clothing store named Spotlight.

1994

Jay Shannon Humphries and **Randi Neil Matthews** married Friday, July 06, 2007.

1995

Jennifer Lynn Ferguson and **Brian Kent Elkins** married July 14, 2007.

1996

Kevin John Croshaw and **Kelly Renea Blankenship** married on Saturday, April 28, 2007.

Kathryn Lee Nash and **Michael Lewis Edmonds** married on Friday, June 15, 2007.

Dennis McDaniel has been named the new principal of Plainview Elementary School in the Patrick area. He has 11 years experience in education. A native of Orangeburg, McDaniel holds a bachelor's degree from Francis Marion University and a master's degree from Nova Southeastern University.

Aimee Carol Tripp is engaged to **John Carrigan Tiller**. The wedding is scheduled for Sept. 1, 2007.

Laura Noelle Henderson and **Todd Alan Russell** married May 26, 2007.

Kelly Irene Roscoe and **Dr. Neil Cameron Romero** married May 12, 2007.

1998

Heather Marie Collins and **Jerrod McIntyre Duncan** married Mar. 24, 2007.

1999

Melissa Poston Bigford auditioned for the Jeopardy game show. The contestant coordinators interviewed around 200,000 people last year for the show with only 400 passing the test portion of the interview. She is a Florence resident and employee of Morris Multimedia with the Darco News and Buyers Guide in Hartsville and The News Journal in Florence.

Mattie Morris-Hughes earned a Masters of Education from Winthrop University in August 2006.

Lelon Scott Hardee and **Katherine Holly Epting** married on Dec. 2, 2006.

2000

Corey Hoyt Grant has been promoted to supervisor of data operations at ADP Tax Credit Services.

Mark Austin Perry and **Sarah Bethany Saleeby '03** married June 23, 2007.

2001

Andreca Maritetta Faison and **Mr. Lamonte Charlesmane Curry** married May 26, 2007.

Christyn Renee Floyd and **Lemuel Lucas Price** married June 23, 2007.

Thomas Drago and **Rebekka Tebal** married July 8, 2006.

Heather Michele Mims and **Garrett Samuel Odom** married Oct. 21, 2006

Adam Aviary Lyerly and **April Frances Evans** married Nov. 4, 2006.

2002

Stacy Joy Cox and **William Evander "Chip" Threadgill Jr.** married June 23, 2007.

Jennifer Lynn Brabham and **Peter Benjamin Collier '03** married Oct. 21, 2006.

Cristy Hughes and **Dr. Christopher Beller** married Sept. 4, 2006.

2003

Peter Benjamin Collier and **Jennifer Lynn Brabham '02** married Oct. 21, 2006.

April Souria Williams and **Matthew David Purvis** married May 26, 2007.

Crystal Elise Poston and **Patrick Roger Gause** married June 2, 2007.

Page Neal Brooks and **Danielle Diana Rush '06** married Nov. 4, 2006.

Sarah Bethany Saleeby and **Mark Austin Perry '00** married June 23, 2007.

2004

Barbi Kristin McDonald and **Jason Lee Bassham** married July 14, 2007

Andrew Birgel has been named a member of the 2007 Executive Council of New York Life Insurance Company. Members of the Executive Council are among the most successful of New York Life's elite sales force of approximately 10,000 licensed agents. As a member of the Executive Council, Andrew was invited to attend the Executive Council Event held in Disney's Coronado Springs in Orlando, Fla. in August, where he was recognized for his hard work and dedication to New York Life.

Doquoi T. Green received a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Emory University on May 14, 2007.

David Alan Putnam and **Sallie Candler Mobley** married Apr. 28, 2007.

2005

Elizabeth Cordray graduated in May 2007 from the University of South Carolina with a Master's Degree in Social Work.

Deana Victoria Owens and **Randall Thomas Duncan** married on Jan. 6, 2007.

Elizabeth Owens has been promoted to loan department clerk. She has been with Georgetown Kraft Credit Union for two years.

Kristopher Rogerson has served in the Air National Guard.

Robert Skelton and **Cynthia Norris** were married on July 22, 2006.

Logan Suzanne Bolick and **Richard Stanley McGill** were married on August 26, 2006.

Karen Elaine Gibson and **Cameron Coker** were married on July 22, 2006.

Amy Mims and **Throop Crosland** were married on September 23, 2006.

2006

Justin Gene Easterling and **Wynter Victoria Andrews** were married Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007.

LaToya Tekeisha Peoples and **George Taylor Jr.** were married on Saturday, April 21, 2007.

Danielle Jeanne Church and **Matthew Clinton O'Neal** were married on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006.

Danielle Diana Rush and **Page Neal Brooks '03** were married at 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006.

2007

Caitlyn McCarthy met guest workers from Guatemala, Poland and Romania while working as a waitress. "[It] got me curious what it would be like [to live abroad]," she said. McCarthy, 20, who studied nursing at Francis Marion University, thought she would become a hospital nurse until a community nursing course sparked her interest in health promotion and disease prevention. She's been nominated to Central Asia but may not find out where she'll serve until closer to her September departure date.

Lizabeth Coke Moore of Turbeville and **Wayne Marshall Parker** of Sumter married Aug. 5, 2006.

Francis Marion University has been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine as one of

the south's top 100 master's level universities for the seventh year in a row.

The rankings will be published in the magazine's book *America's Best Colleges*, 2008 Edition, which went on sale Aug. 20. The magazine released the rankings Aug. 17.



Alumni profile: Annie Brown

Sitting in the classroom at FMU, Annie Brown dreamed about how her life could one day blossom into something extraordinary. Crediting her family and professors, she has been able to bloom into a woman in the prime of her life, offering help and motivating other students to dream big.

With a polished and energetic demeanor, Brown holds the position of director of training and special projects and is an adjunct faculty member at Florence-Darlington Technical College. In this position, she supervises the development of training programs and activities; plans, develops, conducts and coordinates faculty and staff training and development programs; and evaluates processes and procedures to promote institutional objectives.

She has had to overcome many obstacles, like deciding to go back to school, to be where she is today. As a non-traditional student, she had to manage her time very efficiently. In 1974, Brown earned an associate's degree in data processing from FDTC but it was 18 years later that she earned a bachelor's degree in management from FMU. Though she was a wife and mother by this time, Brown said going back to school was not hard. In fact, in 1995 she went on to earn her M.B.A. in management from FMU and a Ph.D. from Walden University's

on-campus program in applied management and decision science in 2005.

Looking to herself to succeed, Brown used the inspiration of two FMU professors to make something out of her life. It was because of former FMU business administration professor for which the Small Business Institute was named, Donald E. Kelley, and Barry O'Brien, dean of the school of business and associate professor of economics, that Brown said she found her purpose in life.

Brown recalls, "Don Kelley once told me that you have two choices in this field. You can either own your own business which comes with time challenges, or you could always take a leadership role in working for someone else."

Kelley's practical teaching methods made him Brown's most valued professor at FMU.

"He would always give the pros and cons which made him quite real to me," Brown said. "He could actually relate to you on whatever level."

It was O'Brien's fervor for teaching business that earned him high marks with Brown.

"He just lit up in the classroom. He was like a fireball," she said. "His excellence and enthusiasm made me want to excel."

For this non-traditional student, FMU has been the ideal place to pursue her imaginings.

"I had the opportunity to attend one of the best four-year institutions, bar none, and the literature speaks to that," Brown said. "It is the loyalty and commitment of the leadership and faculty to the students at Francis Marion that keep me referring others to this great university."



Brown



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